

CLAIMS

1 1. An apparatus comprising:
2 at least one processor;
3 a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
4 a first user registry residing in the memory that contains a first user identity for a
5 selected user;
6 a second user registry residing in the memory that contains a second user identity
7 for the selected user; and
8 an identity mapping mechanism that provides a mapping between the first user
9 identity and the second user identity.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first user registry comprises a user registry
2 in a first processing environment.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second user registry comprises a user
2 registry in a second processing environment that is different than the first processing
3 environment.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the identity mapping mechanism comprises:
2 a directory service that contains a plurality of user identity mappings that correlate
3 the first user identity in the first registry to the second user identity in the second registry,
4 and that references the first and second user registries; and
5 schema for the directory service that specifies relationships between a plurality of
6 entries in the directory service, where at least one entry includes the user identity
7 mappings.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the directory service comprises Lightweight
2 Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a global identifier residing in the
2 memory that corresponds to the selected user, and wherein the mapping comprises a first
3 correlation between the first user identity and the global identifier and a second
4 correlation between the second user identity and the global identifier.

1 7. An apparatus comprising:
2 at least one processor;
3 a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
4 a first user registry residing in the memory containing a first plurality of user
5 identities;
6 a second user registry residing in the memory containing a second plurality of user
7 identities;
8 a directory service that contains a plurality of user identity mappings that correlate
9 a first user identity in the first user registry to a second user identity in the second user
10 registry, and that references the first and second user registries; and
11 schema for the directory service that specifies relationships between a plurality of
12 entries in the directory service, where at least one entry includes the user identity
13 mappings.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first user registry comprises a user registry
2 in a first processing environment.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the second user registry comprises a user
2 registry in a second processing environment that is different than the first processing
3 environment.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the directory service comprises Lightweight
2 Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a global identifier residing in the
- 2 memory that corresponds to the selected user, and wherein the mapping comprises a first
- 3 correlation between the first user identity and the global identifier and a second
- 4 correlation between the second user identity and the global identifier.

1 12. A networked computer system comprising:
2 a network that interconnects a plurality of computer systems;
3 a first computer system coupled to the network that includes a first user registry
4 for a first processing environment that contains a first user identity for a selected user;
5 a second computer system coupled to the network that includes a second user
6 registry for a second processing environment that contains a second user identity for the
7 selected user; and
8 a mechanism coupled to the network that provides a mapping between the first
9 user identity and the second user identity.

1 13. The networked computer system of claim 12 wherein the first user registry
2 comprises a user registry in a first processing environment.

1 14. The networked computer system of claim 13 wherein the second user registry
2 comprises a user registry in a second processing environment that is different than the
3 first processing environment.

1 15. The networked computer system of claim 12 further comprising a global identifier
2 accessible via the network that corresponds to the selected user, and wherein the mapping
3 comprises a first correlation between the first user identity and the global identifier and a
4 second correlation between the second user identity and the global identifier.

1 16. A method for managing a plurality of user identities on a plurality of computer
2 system coupled to a network, each user identity corresponding to a defined processing
3 environment, the method comprising the steps of:
4 providing an identity mapping mechanism that provides a mapping between a first
5 user identity in a first user registry and a second user identity in a second user registry;
6 and
7 invoking the identity mapping mechanism to determine the mapping between the
8 first user identity and the second user identity.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the identity mapping mechanism comprises:
2 a directory service that contains a plurality of user identity mappings that correlate
3 the first user identity in the first registry to the second user identity in the second registry,
4 and that references the first and second user registries; and
5 schema for the directory service that specifies relationships between a plurality of
6 entries in the directory service, where at least one entry includes the user identity
7 mappings.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the directory service comprises Lightweight
2 Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

1 19. A method for correlating a plurality of user identities on a plurality of computer
2 systems coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 generating a global identifier corresponding to a user;
4 mapping a first user identity in a first user registry to the global identifier; and
5 mapping a second user identity in a second user registry to the global identifier.

1 20. A program product comprising:
2 (A) an identity mapping mechanism that provides a mapping between:
3 (A1) a first user identity for a selected user residing in a first user registry;
4 and
5 (A2) a second user identity for the selected user residing in a second user
6 registry; and
7 (B) computer-readable signal bearing media bearing the identity mapping
8 mechanism.

1 21. The program product of claim 20 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 recordable media.

1 22. The program product of claim 20 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 transmission media.

1 23. The program product of claim 20 wherein the first user registry comprises a user
2 registry in a first processing environment.

1 24. The program product of claim 23 wherein the second user registry comprises a
2 user registry in a second processing environment that is different than the first processing
3 environment.

1 25. The program product of claim 20 wherein the identity mapping mechanism
2 comprises:
3 a directory service that contains a plurality of user identity mappings that correlate
4 the first user identity in the first registry to the second user identity in the second registry,
5 and that references the first and second user registries; and
6 schema for the directory service that specifies relationships between a plurality of
7 entries in the directory service, where at least one entry includes the user identity
8 mappings.

1 26. The program product of claim 20 wherein the directory service comprises
2 Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

1 27. The program product of claim 20 wherein the identity mapping mechanism
2 provides a mapping between the first user identity and the second user identity by creating
3 a global identifier that corresponds to the selected user, and by generating a first
4 correlation between the first user identity and the global identifier and a second
5 correlation between the second user identity and the global identifier.

1 28. A program product comprising:
2 (A) a directory service that contains a plurality of user identity mappings that
3 correlate a first user identity in a first user registry to a second user identity in a second
4 user registry, and that references the first and second user registries; and
5 (B) schema for the directory service that specifies relationships between a
6 plurality of entries in the directory service, where at least one entry includes the user
7 identity mappings; and
8 (C) computer-readable signal bearing media bearing the directory service and the
9 schema.

1 29. The program product of claim 28 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 recordable media.

1 30. The program product of claim 28 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
2 transmission media.

1 31. The program product of claim 28 wherein the first user registry comprises a user
2 registry in a first processing environment.

1 32. The program product of claim 31 wherein the second user registry comprises a
2 user registry in a second processing environment that is different than the first processing
3 environment.

1 33. The program product of claim 28 wherein the directory service comprises
2 Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP).

1 34. The program product of claim 28 wherein the plurality of user identity mappings
2 each comprise a mapping between the first user identity and a global identifier that
3 corresponds to the selected user, and a mapping between the global identifier and the
4 second user identity.
